

Chas:

Thanks again for talking with us on Thursday. Below is some follow-up information for you from my perspective. Some of this information references various sections of our NPRM comments. Please share this with other FCC staff.

-- As stated on p. 3 in our NPRM comments, about 90% of our state's 2,219 public schools already have fiber. About the same percentage of our libraries do NOT have fiber. (Our state network office submitted a BTOP grant to get fiber to the schools and libraries without it. The grant was approved by NTIA but our governor then turned it down.)

-- Per footnote #7 in our comments: In Oct 2009 I submitted a paper on fiber costs using data from our state's BTOP grant. Although it is somewhat dated, with the NPRM's focus on broadband and fiber I encourage Commission staff to review this paper.

-- My paper "School and Library Broadband and Internet Access in Wisconsin: A Background Paper" is at <http://pld.dpi.wi.gov/files/pld/pdf/bbandnetaccess.pdf>. It is a bit dated (May 2012) but much of the information is still accurate. As I mentioned on the call, we unfortunately have a very divisive broadband environment in WI. Not directly stated in the paper is this background: For years the ILECs have opposed WiscNet, our R&E network, providing Internet service to most of our schools and libraries. They viewed WiscNet (a 501c3) as unfairly competing with them. In the fall 2010 election our governor and both houses of the legislature changed from the Democrats to Republican control. With this change the telcos had the legislative support to move aggressively against WiscNet. My paper provides more info on this.

-- Per footnote #7 in our comments: In my opinion, the broadband rates on our BadgerNet state network are exorbitant. I mention this because not all large regional or statewide procurements result in lower costs.

-- As stated in p. 5 of our comments, when it is cost effective to do so the Dept. of Public Instruction is a strong supporter of allowing schools/libraries to own their own broadband circuits. As Steve's Excel file shows, the Waukesha SD is a good example of this. It shows that the broadband cost for 10Gbps for 26 sites is \$32,325/annually which is \$1,243 per site. (Ross may have similar data for schools in his area.) In my opinion, relying primarily on the carriers to meet the goal of gigabit connectivity will bankrupt the E-rate fund. And even with E-rate discounts, most schools will not attain this speed because of the costs the carriers will charge.

-- -- As stated in p. 5 of our comments, we strongly support implementing more "consortium-friendly" application review processes. However as our comments illustrate, unless changes are made in how these applications are reviewed our department will likely recommend that our state network office cease its statewide application. This means the 960 WI schools and libraries now on the statewide application will all file their own 471 applications.

I hope the above information has been helpful and please let me know if you have any questions.

-Bob

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